

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 SCCT-02 NIC-01 OMB-01 IO-14 DLOS-07 EB-11

ACDA-19 DRC-01 /146 W

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R 090005Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1027

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY MANILA

CINCPAC

UNCLAS SINGAPORE 3267

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, SN

SUBJECT: RAJARATNAM INTERVIEW IN FAR EASTERN ECONOMIC REVIEW

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

FOLLOWING POINTS OF INTEREST EMERGED FROM INTERVIEW  
WITH FOREIGN MINISTER RAJARATNAM PUBLISHED IN AUGUST 9  
EDITION OF FAR EASTERN ECONOMIC REVIEW WHICH CONTAINS  
INTERESTING SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT ON SINGAPORE:

1. RECENT ARREST OF MNLF MEMBERS. ACCORDING TO BROAD-  
CASTS BY THE VOICE OF THE MALAYAN REVOLUTION, THE COMMUNISTS  
ARE SET FOR A NEW WAVE OF "ARMED EXPRESSION. IT IS  
ALREADY IN EVIDENCE IN MALAYSIA... THERE ARE MEMBERS OF  
THE PEOPLE'S LIBERATION FRONT WHO HAVE DECIDED  
TO STAGE A FEW INCIDENTS IN SINGAPORE AS WELL..  
THEREFORE, WE TAKE PROPHYLATIC MEASURES, NOT WAIT UNTIL  
THEY BECOME UNMANAGEABLE, I DON'T BELIEVE CHINA OR  
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PEKING HAD ANYTHING TO DO WITH THIS RECENT  
UPSURGE OF COMMUNIST ACTIVITY HERE. IT MAY WELL BE

THAT LOCAL COMMUNIST PARTIES MAY WANT TO CONVINCE PEKING-- "PLEASE DON'T LET US DOWN, BECAUSE WE ARE NOT A FORCE WHICH IS ON THE WANE OR BANKRUPT, WE ARE VERY ACTIVE. WE ARE VERY VIGOROUS." THEY WILL STAGE INCIDENTS TO SHOW THAT THEY ARE NOT ONLY ACTIVE BUT ADVANCING."

2. GOS POLICY TOWARD ESTABLISHMENT OF RELATIONS WITH THE PRC. IN RESPONSE TO A DIRECT QUESTION RAJARATNAM SAID THE GOS CONTINUES TO BE COMMITTED TO A POLICY OF LETTING THE OTHER SEA COUNTRIES GO AHEAD FIRST IN ESTABLISHING RELATIONS WITH PEKING. IN RESPONSE TO A FURTHER QUESTION WHETHER THE GOS WOULD SOON ALLOW A CHINESE CHINESE RATHER THAN A SINGAPOREAN RUN THE BANK OF CHINA IN SINGAPORE, HE REPLIED, "NOT FOR THE TIME BEING. AS WE DEVELOP, HAVE DIPLOMATIC RELATIONSSNITH CHINA... THEN WE MAY HAVE TO SEE WHAT IS ADVANTAGEOUS TO SINGAPORE."

3. GREAT POWER RIVALRY IN THE INDIAN OCEAN. REITERATED AND AMPLIFIED GOS LINE THAT EITHER ALL OF THE GREAT POWERS SHOULD BE PRESENT IN THE INDIAN OCEAN OR NONE. "THE LATTER IS A VERY IMPRACTICAL PROPOSITION. THEREFORE, WE SAY, LET ALL THE GREAT POWERS BE HERE."

4. LOS ISSUES. ADMITTED THAT THERE WERE CONFLICTS OF INTERESTS BETWEEN SINGAPORE AND ITS IMMEDIATE NEIGHBOURS WITH RESPECT TO THE MALACCA STRAITS AND THE ARCHIPELAGO DOCTRINE. HOWEVER, HE SAID "THAT NEED NOT NECESSARILY GIVE RISE TO TENSIONS, BECAUSE OF THE STRAITS OF MALACCA AND EVEN ON THE ARCHIPELAGO THEORY, WE BELIEVE THAT WITH GIVE AND TAKE MANY OF THESE CONFLICTS CAN BE SATISFACTORILY RESOLVED." IF SINGAPORE'S AND OTHER COUNTRIES' INTERESTS IN THE ARCHIPELAGO SEAS CAN BE "SAFEGUARDED I SEE NO DIFFICULTY ABOUT CONCEDED SOME OF THE LEGITIMATE CLAIMS THAT THE ARCHIPELAGO THEORY IMPLIES."

5. ASEAN. THE CHANCES ARE THAT ASEAN IS GOING TO BE "MORE COHERENT ECONOMICALLY THAN POLITICALLY." HOWEVER HE NOTED THAT IN INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS ASEAN  
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IS NOW RECOGNIZED AS AN ENTITY WHICH COULD BE AND WHOSE VIEWS ARE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT, CONSULTED AND THAT ON ISSUES LIKE CAMBODIA THE FIVE PARTNERS HAVE BEEN ABLE TO REACH CONSENSUS. HE SAID HE IS ENCOURAGED BY THE DEGREE OF WILLINGNESS OF THE ASEAN GOVERNMENTS TO STUDY FAR MORE SERIOUSLY THAN IN THE PAST THE RECOMMENDATIONS IN UN STUDY TEAM REPORT FOR

GREATER ASEAN ECONOMIC COOPERATION. OF THE THREE PROPOSALS IN THE REPORT FOR TRADE LIBERALIZATION, PACKAGE DEALS, AND

COMPLEMENTARY, HE THOUGHT TRADE LIBERATION OFFERED THE BEST OPPORTUNITY FOR QUICK IMPLEMENTATION.

6. ASEAN NON-AGGRESSION PACT. "THE PROPOSAL HAS BEEN DISCUSSED AND AS FAR AS SINGAPORE IS CONCERNED, WE THINK IT IS A GOOD IDEA TO HAVE A NON-AGGRESSION PACT WITHIN ASEAN. THAT MEANS WE NEUTRALIZE INTERNALLY THE POTENTIALS FOR CONFLICT WITHIN THE ASEAN GROUP."

7. FPDA. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS AS TO HOW MUCH ANZUK MILITARY PRESENCE HAD TO REMAIN TO INSURE THE CREDIBILITY OF FPDA, RAJARATNAM REPLIED, "THE MORE PARTICIPATION BY THE PARTNERS... THE MORE SUBSTANCE AND CREDIBILITY THE FIVE POWER DEFENSE ARRANGEMENT WOULD HAVE. BUT, IF FOR SOME REASON, SOME OF THE OTHER PARTNERS HAVE TO CUT DOWN SOME OF THEIR COMMITMENTS, PROVIDING IT IS WITHIN REASONABLE BOUNDS, I THINK THE FIVE POWER ARRANGEMENT CAN CONTINUE." HE AGREED THAT IF THE THREE OUTSIDE POWERS WITHDRAW, THEIR PHYSICAL PRESENCE ENTIRELY THE FIVE POWER ARRANGEMENT WOULD BE ROBBED OF ALL CREDIBILITY.

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PUBLICATIONS, RECOGNITION, INDIAN OCEAN ZONE OF PEACE, PRESS CONFERENCES, COMMUNISTS, LIBERATION FRONTS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 09 AUG 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** n/a  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1974SINGAP03267  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D740217-0884  
**From:** SINGAPORE  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1974/newtext/t19740860/aaaabzeb.tel  
**Line Count:** 138  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION EA  
**Original Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
**Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** martinjw  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 04 APR 2002  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <04 APR 2002 by reddocgw>; APPROVED <22 JAN 2003 by martinjw>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** RAJARATNAM INTERVIEW IN FAR EASTERN ECONOMIC REVIEW CINCPAC FOR POLAD  
**TAGS:** PFOR, SN, ASEAN, PRG, (RAJARATNAM)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005